

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-313***

***July 8, 2003***

***Operations and Services***

***MARINE AND COASTAL WEATHER SERVICE PROGRAM, NWSPD 10-3***

***SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS***

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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**OPR:** OS21 (B. LaMarre)

**Certified by:** OS21 (T. Pierce)

**Type of Issuance:** Routine.

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***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This directive supersedes NWSI 10-313, dated May 21, 2002. This directive follows a new format, and includes updated examples in the appendix.

Signed

June 20, 2003

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Gregory A. Mandt  
Director, Office of Climate,  
Water, and Weather Services

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Date

**SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS**

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1. Introduction. This procedural instruction provides detailed information on a product Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) issue concerning ongoing or imminent marine weather hazards. Special Marine Warnings (SMWs) provide the marine community with vital information to protect life and property.

2. Special Marine Warning (product category SMW).

2.1 Mission Connection. Special Marine Warnings protect life and property. WFO forecasters issue special marine warnings to provide advanced notice to mariners of potentially hazardous weather conditions.

2.2 Issuance Guidelines.

2.2.1 Creation Software. WFOs will use WarnGen to issue Special Marine Warnings.

2.2.2 Issuance Criteria. WFOs should issue Special Marine Warnings for winds of 34 knots or greater (expected to occur for 2 hours or less); and/or hail 3/4 inch or more in diameter; and/or waterspouts.

Exception: In very unusual cases, families of cold air funnel type waterspouts may remain over an area (such as over the lower Great Lakes) for several hours. In these cases, an SMW may be issued having a valid time longer than 2 hours. Also, in these cases only, appropriate Coastal Waters Forecasts (CWFs) or Great Lakes Nearshore/Open Lake Forecasts (NSH/GLF) should be amended to headline such events.

2.2.3 Issuance Time. SMWs are non-scheduled, event-driven products.

2.2.4 Valid Time. SMWs are valid from the time of issuance until the expiration time.

2.2.5 Product Expiration Time. The product expiration time should not exceed 2 hours, except as noted in section 2.2.2.

2.3 Technical Description. Special Marine Warnings will follow the format and content described in this section.

2.3.1 Mass News Disseminator Broadcast Line. SMWs should include the broadcast line "BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED." If a state does not require EAS activation for SMWs, the broadcast line will read "BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED." The term "BULLETIN" is used when information is sufficiently urgent to warrant a breaking into a normal broadcast.

2.3.2 Mass News Disseminator Header. The SMW MND Header is "SPECIAL MARINE WARNING".

2.3.3 Content. SMWs will be issued in standard bullet format, as outlined in NWSI 10-1701, Text Product Formats and Codes.

SMWs may be issued while a small craft advisory, gale, storm or hurricane force wind warning (not associated with a tropical cyclone warning), is in effect. When a tropical cyclone warning is in effect, however, SMWs should only be issued for waterspouts.

For events impacting both land and water, separate warnings will be issued.

Special Marine Warnings will not be issued in the Offshore Waters Forecast (OFF) or High Seas Forecast (HSF), except in designated areas along the East Coast.

2.3.4 Format. The format of the SMW can be seen in Figure 1. This product is available in industry standard encoding and languages, and may include, but not limited to, American Standard Code for Information Interchange, Extensible Markup Language, Wireless Markup Language and HyperText Markup Language.

<p>(WMO HEADER) (ISSUANCE DATE TIME) (AWIPS ID) (AREAL UGC CODE[S])-(EXPIRATION TIME)-</p> <p>BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED SPECIAL MARINE WARNING NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (CITY)(STATE) (VALID TIME) AM/PM (LOCAL TIME ZONE)(DAY)(DATE)</p> <p>THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...(MARINE FORECAST AREA AFFECTED)</li><li>* UNTIL (ENDING EFFECTIVE TIME)</li><li>* AT (TIME)...(DESCRIPTION OF STORM EVENT)</li></ul> <p>CALL TO ACTION STATEMENT</p> <p>LAT...LON (Mandatory list of latitude/longitude points outlining the forecaster-drawn polygon in WarnGen)</p> <p>\$\$ FORECASTER NAME (optional)</p>
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Figure 1. Special Marine Warning (SMW) Format

2.4 Updates, Amendments and Corrections. Updates and amendments are not applicable. WFOs will reissue Special Marine Warnings for significant grammatical errors, or format errors in marine zones already covered by a warning. WFOs will issue Marine Weather Statements, as described in NWSI 10-314, to provide the public with follow-up information or to cancel all or part of an SMW.

**APPENDIX A - Examples of Special Marine Warnings:**

WHUS51 KLWX 312059  
SMWLWX  
ANZ530>537-312300-

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BALTIMORE MD/WASHINGTON DC  
357 PM EST MON MAR 31 2003

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN STERLING VIRGINIA HAS ISSUED A

\* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...

TIDAL POTOMAC FROM KEY BRIDGE TO INDIAN HEAD MD...  
TIDAL POTOMAC FROM INDIAN HEAD TO COBB ISLAND, MD...  
TIDAL POTOMAC FROM COBB ISLAND, MD TO SMITH POINT, VA...  
CHESAPEAKE BAY FROM POOLES ISLAND TO SANDY POINT, MD...  
CHESAPEAKE BAY NORTH OF POOLES ISLAND, MD...  
CHESAPEAKE BAY FROM DRUM POINT MD TO SMITH POINT, VA...  
CHESAPEAKE BAY FROM SANDY POINT TO NORTH BEACH, MD...  
CHESAPEAKE BAY FROM NORTH BEACH TO DRUM POINT, MD...

\* UNTIL 600 PM EST

\* AT 356 PM EST...SCATTERED SNOW AND RAIN SHOWERS WERE APPROACHING  
AND MOVING OVER THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND TIDAL POTOMAC. THESE  
SHOWERS HAVE A HISTORY OF PRODUCING WIND GUSTS OVER 35 KT.

\* THE THUNDERSTORM WILL BE NEAR...

CHESAPEAKE BAY FROM NORTH OF POOLES ISLAND TO SMITH POINT  
TIDAL POTOMAC FROM KEY BRIDGE TO SMITH POINT.

MARINERS CAN EXPECT WIND GUSTS OVER 35 KT...HIGH WAVES...AND BRIEFLY  
REDUCED VISIBILITIES. BOATERS SHOULD SEEK SAFE HARBOR IMMEDIATELY  
UNTIL THIS STORM PASSES.

MARINERS SHOULD SEEK SAFE HARBOR IMMEDIATELY. TAKE THE NECESSARY  
PRECAUTIONS TO SAFEGUARD LIFE AND PROPERTY.

LAT...LON 3908 7720 3787 7753 3779 7565 3985 7587

\$\$  
MANNING

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WHUS53 KAPX 152044  
SMWAPN  
LMZ345-363-152200-

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GAYLORD MI  
443 PM EDT TUE APR 15 2003

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN GAYLORD HAS ISSUED A

\* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...  
THE MICHIGAN WATERS OF LAKE MICHIGAN FROM MANISTEE TO SLEEPING  
BEAR POINT

\* UNTIL 600 PM

\* AT 440 PM...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A  
STRONG THUNDERSTORMS ALONG A LINE EXTENDING FROM 35 MILES SOUTH  
OF ROCK ISLAND PASSAGE TO 36 MILES NORTHWEST OF MANISTEE...MOVING  
EAST AT 40 MPH. THE THUNDERSTORMS WILL IMPACT THE NEARSHORE AND  
OPEN WATERS OF LAKE MICHIGAN FROM MANISTEE TO FRANKFORT THROUGH  
THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON.

THESE STORMS ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING STRONG WINDS AND HAIL.  
MARINERS CAN EXPECT HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND IF POSSIBLE SHOULD  
HEAD FOR SAFE PORT IMMEDIATELY. BE SURE ALL HANDS ARE WEARING  
FLOATATION DEVICES.

LAT...LON 4480 8715 4462 8714 4460 8609 4486 8610

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WHUS52 KMFL 161332  
SMWMIA  
AMZ651-161430-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MIAMI FL  
932 AM EDT WED APR 16 2003

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN MIAMI HAS ISSUED A

\* SPECIAL MARINE WARNING FOR...  
COASTAL WATERS FROM DEERFIELD BEACH TO OCEAN REEF, FL OUT 20 NM...

\* UNTIL 1030 AM EDT

\* AT 927 AM EDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A  
WATERSPOUT 6 MILES EAST OF FORT LAUDERDALE...MOVING SOUTHWEST AT  
10 MPH.

A REPORT OF A FUNNEL CLOUD WAS RECEIVED FROM A PILOT EAST OF FORT  
LAUDERDALE. A WEATHER OBSERVER AT POMPANO BEACH ALSO REPORTED A  
FUNNEL CLOUD 25 MILES TO THE EAST. SHOWERS OVER THE NEARSHORE  
WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC WILL CONTINUE TO BE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING  
WATERSPOUTS THIS MORNING. BOATERS SHOULD QUICKLY MOVE AWAY FROM  
DEVELOPING WATERSPOUTS...AS THEY CAN EASILY SWAMP OR CAPSIZE SMALL  
BOATS.

LAT...LON 2610 7989 2625 7999 2621 8010 2597 8012

.END

HANDEL